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Minutes of the fourth meeting
of the Commission of Fine Arts
during the fiscal year 1912
held December 15, 1911.

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The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1912 was held in its office in the Lemon Building, Washington, D. C., on Friday, December 15, 1911. The following members were present:

Mr. Burnham, the Chairman, -

Mr. Hastings, -

Mr. French, -

Mr. Gilbert; also

Colonel Spencer Cosby, the Secretary and Executive Officer.

Prior to meeting at the Office, the members present and the Secretary examined at the New National Museum the drawings and models for a Lincoln Memorial on the Potomac Park site, prepared by Mr. Henry Bacon. The Commission believe that Mr. Bacon's rendering shows convincingly that Potomac Park is the proper site for this Memorial.

The Commission also inspected the site for the building proposed to be erected by private parties for the Department of Agriculture on lot 11, square 263, opposite the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, - and examined the base of the Washington Monument from which small pieces of stone have, in the course of time, been loosened by pressure and the weather.

Upon convening at the Office, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman at noon, and immediately proceeded to the business before it.

1. The minutes of the preceding meeting, held November 2, 1911, were presented and approved.

2. The Secretary requested instructions relative to the report on the work of the Commission for the fiscal year 1911, addressed to the President, and the supplemental report prepared in greater detail, copies of each of which had been forwarded to each member of the Commission. The Commission directed that the report prepared for the President be transmitted to him, and that it be published, all matters connected with its publication to be left to the supervision of the Secretary.

3. The Secretary was authorized to employ permanently a messenger at a compensation not to exceed $720 per annum.

4. The attention of the Commission was called to the Act of Congress providing for the erection by Rodman Wanamaker of New York City, without expense to the United States, of a memorial to the memory of the North American Indian in New York Habor, and to the provision of the Act that the design of the memorial be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. It was deemed advisable to appoint a committee to consider all questions that may be brought up in connection with the design of the memorial, and the Chairman appointed Messrs. Hastings, Gilbert, and French a committee to report to the Commission upon any such questions referred to them.

5. The Secretary next presented a written report and recommendation of Mr. Olmsted that the planting plan for the John Paul Jones Monument, submitted by the architects and considered at the last meeting, be approved. The report was accepted and the plan approved.

6. A letter from Mr. Gilbert was read suggesting that it might be desirable for the Government to purchase a duplicate of the model of the city of Rome, prepared by architect P. Bigot. The Commission agreed that the acquisition

of such a model would be desirable, and suggested that the Secretary take up the matter informally with the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

7. Two letters from Miss Annie Belle Picher of Pasadena, California, were next considered, asking whether The Pasadena Exhibition Association had the right to ask the Commission as to the form of Historic Interstate Boundary Stones to be placed upon all Transcontinental Highways. The Secretary read a reply which he had prepared thereto informing Miss Picher that the Commission is without authority to act upon requests presented by private persons. The Commission directed that this letter be forwarded to Miss Picher, and that a similar letter be forwarded to all persons making inquiries of like nature. (See Exhibit A.)

8. The plans for a colored normal school building to be erected on Georgia avenue, Washington, submitted for the advice and criticism of the Commission by the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, were next considered and carefully discussed. The Commission felt that its recommendations, made to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia on February 15, 1911, relative to the adoption of a uniform type of school architecture, and the recommendations made to the representatives of the District Commissioners in conference with the Commission of Fine Arts in March, 1911, had not been followed in this case. Mr. Hastings was thereupon requested to prepare a letter to the Engineer Commissioner, containing the conclusions of the Commission in regard to the submission and calling attention to the former recommendations made by the Commission in this connection.

9. The Secretary next read an extract from a letter from Mr. Frank Miles Day,

Advisor to the Building Committee of the Perry Memorial, suggesting the wisdom of inviting the members of the Building Committee to be present at the meeting in January when the drawings to be submitted in the Perry Memorial competition are to be inspected and passed upon by the Commission. The Secretary was directed to invite, on behalf of the Commission, the members of the Building Committee to be present at this meeting, the date of which was fixed for January 26th. He was also directed to inform Mr. Day that the Commission believes that all arrangements for the handling and exhibition of the drawings should be made by the Perry Memorial authorities, and that none of the expenses in connection with the competition should be borne by the Commission of Fine Arts. (See Exhibit B.)

10. The next matter considered was a letter from the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia requesting the views of the Commission relative to the maximum allowable height of a building to be erected on lot 11, square 263, which faces on Fourteenth street, SW., between B and C streets, and confronts the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The site for this building had been inspected earlier in the day by the members of the Commission. After careful discussion of the whole matter, and reference to the plans for the present and proposed Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the new Agricultural Department, it was

> RESOLVED, That, after a careful consideration of the letter from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia dated November 18, 1911, and an inspection of the site in question (Lot 11, Square 263, D. C.), the Commission of Fine Arts is of the opinion that buildings in this block, confronting the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on Fourteenth street, should be limited to a height of eighty (80) feet above the curb.

The Secretary was directed to transmit this resolution to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. (See Exhibit C.)

11. The Secretary stated that the John Paul Jones Statue Commission requested the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts upon the bronze statue of John Paul Jones, which had arrived in Washington. The Chair thereupon appointed Mr. French a committee of one, with power, to inspect this statue and report to the John Paul Jones Statue Commission on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. French, having examined the statue, approved it on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts.

12. A letter dated December 9, 1911, was presented from Mr. Olmsted, relative to the planting plan for trees along 17th street, immediately south of the State, War, and Navy Department Building, with a view to making a start along the lines of the Park Commission Plans. The planting plan was considered at the last meeting of the Commission. In view of the necessity for an early adjournment, the Secretary was directed to forward a copy of this letter to each member of the Commission in order that the matter may be carefully considered at the next meeting.

13. There being no further business before the meeting, the Commission adjourned to meet on Friday, January 26, 1912.

Secretary.

Approved: D H Burnham
Chairman.

EXHIBIT "A"

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

December 16, 1911.

Miss Annie Belle Picher,
606 South Marengo avenue,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Miss Picher:

At the regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on December 15, 1911, I brought to the attention of the Commission your letter of November 8th, together with the supplemental information contained in your letter of November 22d.

After due consideration the Commission directed me to inform you that, under the law, it can give advice upon questions of art only when required to do so by the President or by a committee of Congress, or in case of monuments, &c., to be erected in the District of Columbia when the advice of the Commission is called for by the officers charged by law with the erection of the monument. As the boundary stones referred to by you have not yet been authorized by any law of Congress and as the advice of the Commission in regard to them has not been called for by any of the officials authorized to do so, the Commission cannot, under the law, give consideration to the matter.

Respectfully,

SPENCER COSBY,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

SC-ABC

EXHIBIT "A"

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

December 16, 1911.

Miss Annie Belle Fisher,
606 South Marengo avenue,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Miss Fisher:

At the regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on December 15, 1911, I brought to the attention of the Commission your letter of November 8th, together with the supplemental information contained in your letter of November 22d.

After due consideration the Commission directed me to inform you that, under the law, it can give advice upon questions of art only when required to do so by the President or by a committee of Congress, or in case of monuments, &c., to be erected in the District of Columbia when the advice of the Commission is called for by the officers charged by law with the erection of the monument. As the boundary stones referred to by you have not yet been authorized by any law of Congress and as the advice of the Commission in regard to them has not been called for by any of the officials authorized to do so, the Commission cannot, under the law, give consideration to the matter.

Respectfully,

SPENCER CROSBY,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

SC-ABC

COPY OF LETTER SENT TO EACH MEMBER OF BUILDING COMMITTEE OF PERRY MEMORIAL.

EXHIBIT "B"

December 16, 1911.

George H. Worthington, Esq.,
Chairman, Building Committee,
The Inter-State Board of the
Perry's Victory Centennial
Commissioners,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

At the regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held yesterday, it was decided to hold the next meeting on January 26th in order to examine the drawings to be submitted in the competition for the selection of an architect to design and supervise the construction of the Perry Memorial.

I was directed by the Commission to extend a cordial invitation to the members of the Building Committee of the Perry Memorial to be present at the deliberations of the Commission when the drawings are being examined. It gives me great pleasure to extend this invitation on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts, and I sincerely hope you will be able to be present.

Yours very truly,

SPENCER COSBY,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

SC-ABC

Copy of above letter sent also to
Mr. Henry Watterson, Louisville, Ky.
Lieut. - General Nelson A. Miles, Washington, D. C.

COPY OF LETTER SENT TO EACH MEMBER OF BUILDING COMMITTEE OF PERRY MEMORIAL.

EXHIBIT "B"

December 16, 1911.

George H. Worthington, Esq.,
Chairman, Building Committee,
The Inter-State Board of the
Perry's Victory Centennial
Commissioners,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

At the regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held yesterday, it was decided to hold the next meeting on January 26th in order to examine the drawings to be submitted in the competition for the selection of an architect to design and supervise the construction of the Perry Memorial.

I was directed by the Commission to extend a cordial invitation to the members of the Building Committee of the Perry Memorial to be present at the deliberations of the Commission when the drawings are being examined. It gives me great pleasure to extend this invitation on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts, and I sincerely hope you will be able to be present.

Yours very truly,

CHAIRMAN COREY.

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary.

SO-MPO

Copy of above letter sent also to
Lieut. - General Nelson A. Miles, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Henry Watterson, Louisville, Ky.

EXHIBIT "C"

December 16, 1911.

Hon. Cuno H. Rudolph,
President, The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am directed by the Commission of Fine Arts to transmit to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia the following resolution adopted by the Commission of Fine Arts at a meeting held on December 15, 1911:

> RESOLVED, That, after a careful consideration of the letter from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia dated November 18, 1911, and an inspection of the site in question (Lot 11, Square 263, D. C.), the Commission of Fine Arts is of the opinion that buildings in this block, confronting the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on Fourteenth street, should be limited to a height of eighty (80) feet above the curb.

Respectfully,

SPENCER COSBY,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

SC-ABC

EXHIBIT "C"

December 16, 1911.

Hon. Simon B. Rudolph,
President, The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am directed by the Commission of Fine Arts to transmit to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia the following resolution adopted by the Commission of Fine Arts at a meeting held on December 13, 1911:

RESOLVED, That, after a careful consideration of the letter from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia dated November 10, 1911, and an inspection of the site in question (Lot 11, Square 382, D. C.), the Commission of Fine Arts is of the opinion that buildings in this block, constructing the Tunnel of Carrying and Printing or Treasury street, should be limited to a height of eighty (80) feet above the curb.

Respectfully,

SECRETARY.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

32-EBC